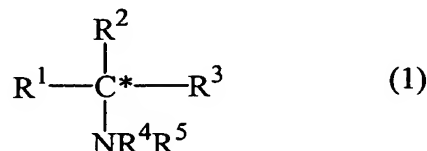


CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended): ~~Process~~ A process for the preparation of an enantiomerically enriched compound of formula 1



or a salt thereof, wherein:

C* represents an asymmetric carbon atom;

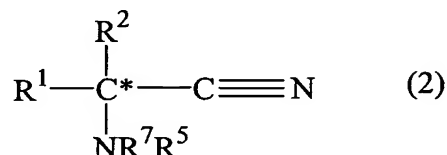
R¹ and R² are different from each other, and, each independently, ~~represent~~ represents H, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or aryl group;

R³ represents CH₂OH or an optionally protected CHO group;

R⁵ represents H, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or aryl group; and

R⁴ represents H or C(=O)R⁶ wherein R⁶ represents H, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, aryl or alkoxy group or R⁴ represents ~~or~~ an amine protecting group, or ~~R⁴ and R⁵~~ R⁴ and R⁵ form together with the N to which they are attached a cyclic imide group, ~~wherein~~

which process comprises hydrogenating an enantiomerically enriched compound with formula 2



or a salt thereof, wherein C*, R¹, R², R³ and R⁵ are as defined above; and

R⁷ represents H or C(=O)R⁶ wherein R⁶ is as defined above, or R⁷ represents an amine protecting group, or R⁵ and R⁷ form together with the N to which they are attached a cyclic ~~[[imine]]~~ imide group, ~~is subjected to hydrogenation~~ in the presence of hydrogen, a hydrogenation catalyst and a mineral acid.

2. (currently amended): ~~Process according to~~ The process of claim 1, wherein R³ is an optionally protected CHO group and wherein hydrogen is present at a hydrogen-pressure between 0.1 and 2 MPa.

3. (currently amended): ~~Process according to~~ The process of claim 2, wherein the hydrogen-pressure is between 0.5 and 1 MPa.

4. (currently amended): ~~Process according to anyone of claims 1-3~~ The process of claim 1 wherein R^3 is an optionally protected aldehyde and the ~~amino-aldehyde compound of formula 2~~ is isolated in the form of a chemically and configurationally stable derivative.

5. (currently amended): ~~Process according to~~ The process of claim 1, wherein R^3 is a CH_2OH group and wherein at least during part of the hydrogenation hydrogen is present at a hydrogen-pressure between 2 and 10 MPa.

6. (currently amended): ~~Process according to~~ The process of claim 5, wherein at least during part of the hydrogenation the hydrogen-pressure is between 4 and 6 MPa.

7. (currently amended): ~~Process according to~~ The process of claim 5 ~~[[or 6]]~~, wherein the hydrogen-pressure initially is between ~~[[0,5]]~~ 0.5 and 2 MPa and subsequently, after most of the ~~nitrile starting material compound of formula 2~~ is converted to the compound of formula 1, the hydrogen pressure is increased to a value between 2 and 10 MPa.

8. (currently amended): ~~Process according to anyone of claims 1-7~~ The process of claim 1 wherein a ~~Pd catalyst is used as~~ the hydrogenation catalyst is a Pd catalyst.

9. (currently amended): ~~Process according to anyone of claims 1-8~~ The process of claim 1, wherein ~~as starting material, an enantiomerically enriched nitrile according to the compound of formula 2 is used that~~ is prepared by

(precursor) fermentation, enzymatic resolution, crystallization induced asymmetric transformation, classical resolution, resolution via preferential crystallization, diastereomeric synthesis, catalytic asymmetric synthesis or ~~dehydration~~ dehydration of at least one amino acid ~~[[amides]]~~ amide.